

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of the claims provided below replaces all prior versions of the claims.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A [[B]]beverage can (1) having an exposed protective cover secured over a can lid area of the can, wherein the cover (3) is made of a non-laminated vermicular embossed aluminum foil and has a thickness in the range of approximately nine micrometers to approximately 15 micrometers.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The [[B]]beverage can according to claim 1, wherein the depth of embossing of the aluminum foil is in the range from approximately sixty micrometers to approximately one hundred micrometers.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) The [[B]]beverage can according to claim 1, wherein the protective cover (3) is joined to the beverage can (1) with adhesive.

7. (Currently Amended) The [[B]]beverage can according to claim 6, wherein the adhesive is applied to the central area of the can lid (1a).

8. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[B]]~~beverage can according to claim 6, wherein the adhesive is applied to an upper can edge (1c).

9. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[B]]~~beverage can according to claim 6, wherein the adhesive is one that must be activated and is applied to the protective cover.

10. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[B]]~~beverage can according to claim 1, wherein the protective cover (3) has a substantially rotationally symmetrical shape.

11. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[B]]~~beverage can according to claim 1, wherein the protective cover (3) has a polygonal shape.

12. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[B]]~~beverage can according to 11, wherein the protective cover (3) has several points progressing downward along the can (1).

13. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[B]]~~beverage can according to claim 1, wherein the protective cover (3) conforms to a contour of the can lid (1a) and of an upper can edge (1c).

14-22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) A protective cover blank and a beverage can combination, the beverage can having a non-planar lid area and the blank being conformable to the lid area in a ductile manner and being made of non-laminated vermicular embossed

aluminum foil, wherein the aluminum foil has a thickness in the range from approximately 9 micrometers to approximately 15 micrometers, and wherein the depth of embossing is in the range from approximately 60 micrometers to approximately 100 micrometers.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[C]]~~ combination according to claim 23, wherein the blank has a substantially circular shape.

27. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[C]]~~ combination according to claim 23, wherein the blank has a polygonal shape.

28. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[C]]~~ combination according to claim 23, wherein the blank has, on one side, a coating (3a) of adhesive that is one that must be activated.

29. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[C]]~~ combination according to claim 35, wherein the zonal adhesive coating (3a) is arranged in a center of the blank.

30. (Currently Amended) The B~~b~~everage can according to claim 9, wherein the adhesive is one that must be heat-activated.

31-33. (Cancelled)

34. (Currently Amended) The [[C]]combination according to claim 26,
wherein the blank has a pull-off tab (23).

35. (Currently Amended) The [[C]]combination according to claim 28,
wherein the coating is a zonal coating applied to only a portion of the one side of the blank.

36. (Currently Amended) The [[C]]combination according to claim 28,
wherein the coating is a full surface coating applied to the entirety of the one side of the
blank.

37. (Currently Amended) The [[C]]combination according to claim 28, wherein
the coating is an adhesive that must be heat activated.

38. (Currently Amended) The [[C]]combination according to claim 29,
wherein zonal coating is applied to the one side in a circular shaped pattern.

39-42. (Cancelled)